



Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-022
Wednesday
3 February 1988

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-022

CONTENTS

3 February 1988

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

UN Human Rights Meeting Causes Controversy	1
Group Holds News Conference [EFE]	1
U.S. Mounts Campaign	1
U.S. Fails on Rights Agenda	2
Attorney General's Governing Council Meets	2

Haiti

Latin American Delegation Visits; Meets CED	2
Jamaica's Seaga Reiterates Support for Manigat	3
Mirebalais Youth Protest Recent Arrests	4
Mirebalais CASEC Elections Results Reported	4
Director General of Government Daily Resigns	4

CENTRAL AMERICA

Nicaragua

Government Submits New Proposals to Opposition [AFP]	5
Envoy to U.S. on Congress' Contra Aid Vote	5
Cardinal: Aid Possible 'Obstacle' to Democracy	5
Government, Yatama Announce Cease-Fire	5
Ortega Concludes European Visit, Returns 2 Feb	6
Court Issues Communique on James Denby Release	6
Further on Chamorro Acceptance of Amnesty	6
Publication of 'Liberal' Magazine Noted	7

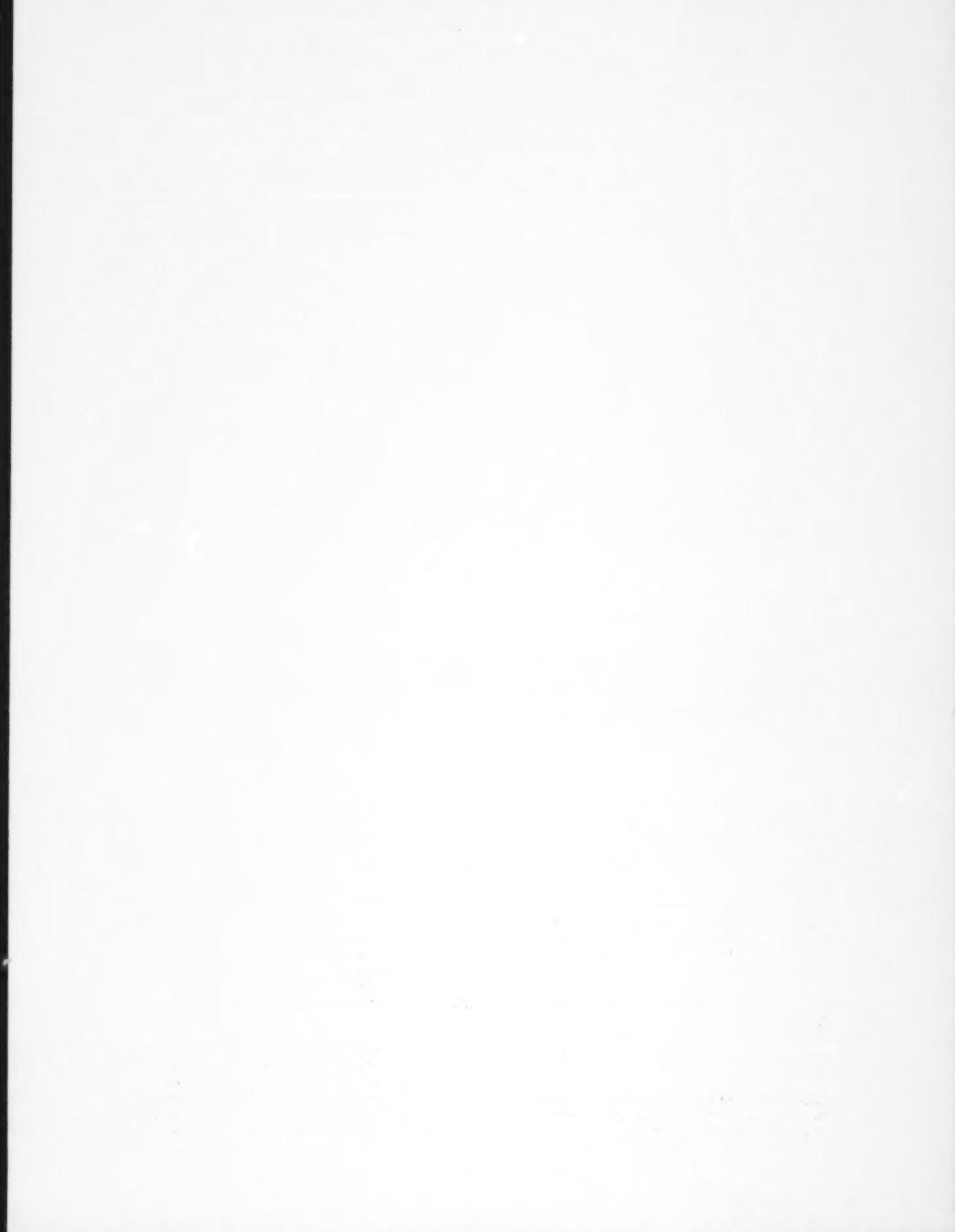
Panama

Further on Continuing Arrests, Protests	7
Crusade Organizes 2d Rally [LA PRENSA 31 Jan]	7
Summoning of Leaders Protested [LA PRENSA 1 Feb]	7
Crusade Calls for Strike [LA PRENSA 2 Feb]	8
Chamber Backs Strike Call [EL SIGLO 2 Feb]	8
CONEP on Leaders' Arrest [EL SIGLO 2 Feb]	9
Crusade Leaders Released	9
Press Photographer Arrested [AFP]	9
Daily Interviews Gen Paredes on Situation [LA PRENSA 27 Jan]	10
PAPO President on Democratic Struggle	12
Need for 'United Front' With FDP Viewed [MATUTINO 1 Feb 88]	12

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Alfonsin Arrives Home From Spain Visit	14
Central Bank President Departs for New York	14
Rebel Officer at Large: Charged With Contempt	14
Army Issues Communique on Imprisoned Rebels	14



Cuba

UN Human Rights Meeting Causes Controversy

Group Holds News Conference

PA030400 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0213 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Havana, 31 Jan (EFE)—A group of approximately 40 Cuban Government opponents met with foreign media representatives at a private residence in Havana and accused the executive branch of violating human rights.

The meeting, at which a 3-day hunger strike—called a “peaceful protest”—was announced, lasted for several hours and was not interfered with by the government. Some observers noted that meetings of this type are unprecedented in Cuba.

The news conference was called by the illegal “Cuban Committee for Human Rights,” headed by dissident Ricardo Bofill, to request that the UN Human Rights Commission, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, investigate Cuba.

The news conference’s organizers introduced 16 people to the newsmen present. These people stated they had suffered reprisals because of their political ideology or religious beliefs, and they also reported executions for political reasons and brutality at penitentiaries.

Cuban officials have always denied that prisoners are tortured or ill-treated. To prove this they have invited several international organizations to visit the country’s jails.

Justice Minister Juan Escalona stated at a recent news conference that Cuba has not had capital punishment for crimes against state security for the past 20 years.

Discussing Bofill’s committee, a Foreign Ministry spokesman stated last week that they do not pay any attention to these activities because “all they really want to do is make noise.”

Present at the meeting was Mary Banotti, an Irish auxiliary member of the European Parliament’s human rights subcommittee, who has met with Cuban political prisoner Juan Valdes Teran, 70, and other prisoners at the “Combinado del Este” jail.

Contrary to what one of the participants stated, Mary Banotti reported that Valdes Teran “seemed to be pretty well. I am a nurse and I asked him specific questions about his health. I spoke to him for approximately 45 minutes.”

The Havana government promised Spanish Senate President Jose Federico de Carvajal on 15 January that Valdes Teran would be released shortly.

At the human rights news conference, relatives of individuals who have been executed also spoke to the media and requested that they be given their relatives’ mortal remains. This is the case of Antonio Lopez Munoz, a former “planted” prisoner (so called because he refused to wear the common prisoner’s uniform) who served a 27-year sentence.

Lopez Munoz, a 1960 armed “rebel” against Fidel Castro’s revolutionary government, agreed with the accusations made by Armando Valladares, the U.S. representative in Geneva, in his book about his experience in the island’s jails.

The difficult situation of the former prisoners, who after they were condemned by Cuban justice were called terrorists by the U.S. Interests Section, was also noted at the news conference.

Individuals tried for illegally leaving the country discussed their present situation, as did lawyer Pablo Llabre, who stated he had been fired from the “collective law offices” “for reporting corruption in the judicial system.”

Barbarita Jover, who was a theater and television actress, said that after she reported “things that had been done wrong” she was accused of having a dissident position, lost her job, and had to clean streets.

Tania Diaz Castro, former “BOHEMIA” magazine journalist, said she was sorry she did not have the option of being able to offer her services to a private publishing firm.

The legal grounds for the accusations made against several of those present at the meeting were: spying for the CIA, serving in “counterrevolutionary” organizations, or fraud. They denied these accusations.

U.S. Mounts Campaign

FL021950 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish
1800 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The 44th session of the UN Human Rights Commission has just begun meeting and the United States is once again promoting its shameless campaign against Cuba. The instrument is the same, Mr Armando Valladares, except this time he is chief of the U.S. delegation.

It is not necessary to give Cubans the history of this person. We know he’s a former member of the tyranny’s police, a counterrevolutionary terrorist, pretender of paralysis while in prison, a CIA-made poet, and now bastard of the empire. The Latin American delegates here in Geneva will not even give him a formal welcome.

In truth, as Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said yesterday in Mexico, this subject's appointment demonstrates the lack of respect the U.S. Government has for the world human rights forum.

However, the paradoxical aspect is that this same government is trying to become a judge of human rights and it is one of the least-qualified for this position.

There is no need to refute here the Yankee inventions against Cuba. These have already been refuted forever by the building of socialism throughout the country. It is worth asking if President Ronald Reagan seriously believes the United States is the model country that others should copy and imitate.

There are not many today who wish to accept the achievements of American democracy, such as the cancer of racism, the ulcer of corruption, or the disgrace of Iran-Gate. There are not many who would wish to have, as the United States does, 20 million hungry people, 8 million citizens deprived of the right to work, millions of illiterates or semiliterates, hundreds of thousands of drug addicts, or the unprecedented terror of those who think differently from the authorities, which results in almost all the adult population of the United States being intensely spied upon by the FBI.

This is not invention or propaganda but acts recognized by the U.S. Government itself. This is not all, but we do not need more. It is enough to stress that out of the 178 international documents on human rights, the United States has signed and ratified only a little more than 30.

Why then all the democratic facade?

U.S. Fails on Rights Agenda

FL030210 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish
0000 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The United States failed today in its attempt to have the UN Human Rights Commission include Cuba's situation as a specific case to be discussed during the present working session which began in Geneva yesterday. Once the board of directors—presided over this year by Senegalese Ambassador Aliou Sene—was formed, the U.S. delegation headed by Armando Valladares attempted an administrative procedural maneuver to include the situation of human rights in Cuba as a special case on the session's agenda. The U.S. attempt failed when the Senegalese ambassador said there weren't enough facts to modify the agenda and include Cuba's case.

Attorney General's Governing Council Meets

FL021614 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish
1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The expanded Governing Council of the Cuban Attorney General's Office has begun meeting in Havana City. The meeting was presided over by Jose Ramon

Machado Ventura, PCC Politburo member; Juan Escalona Reguera, justice minister and PCC Central Committee member; and Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa.

The plenum analyzed, during their 1st day of meetings, the results of the work in the area of the penal process. The report was presented by Jorge Bodes and (Harold Lores). They also discussed tasks of the Attorney General's Office related to implementing the new penal code.

Fiscal verification, processing the people's complaints, and fulfillment of cadre policies and skills were also discussed at the meeting.

Haiti

Latin American Delegation Visits; Meets CED

FL022234 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpts] A delegation from the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties arrived in Haiti day before yesterday aboard a COPA Airlines plane from Panama. [passage omitted]

Yesterday morning the delegation met with the Committee for Democratic Agreement [CED]; its four political leaders later made statements to the press. [passage omitted]

Now you will hear, one after another, the statements made by the four CED leaders after their meeting with this delegation.

[Begin recording] [Marc Bazin, in progress] ...many notes on what we told them. They asked a lot of questions about the situation. They wanted to know the facts, what exactly happened on 29 November, what exactly happened on 17 January, what has happened since and what the individual parties' positions are. They are also aware of the fact we represent a very great force in public opinion. They know it is we who now represent the popular will. So they will take this into account in the talks they will have with the government. They also know that we are four responsible political parties and they asked us if we would meet with them again. We have decided this is just the first conversation. There will be others, since the delegation will be here for 5 days. That is what I, Marc Bazin, have to say on this morning's talks. [passage omitted]

[Louis Dejoie] The talks were on the salient points of the current Haitian political situation. The thing is that at present the people do not accept the government which they seem to want to stuff down their throats. International authorities are watching the Haitian people, who are crying out to establish democracy in Haiti. Since this group is a highly democratic Latin American group,

which heard that there is another—a Christian Democratic group, which has expressed support for Mr Manigat in an extraordinary manner—I mean, I thought that group was supposed to be democratic! [changes thought]. The elections took place the way they did, and the Haitian people refused to accept this kind of an election. Thus, this group interests us a lot because it is a very democratic group and we greatly appreciate its coming here. And also, they have seen that we four—Reverend Sylvio Claude, Marc Bazin, Gerard Gourgue, Louis Dejoie—are on the side of the masses, that we will not accept an election like the one we've just had, giving us a government coming to power through sham elections. We will not allow the Duvalierists, the Tontons Macoutes, to fall upon us.

[Gerard Gourgue, in progress]...a point for us to retain: you know a big disinformation trend has developed, based on Luis Herrera Campins' communique. He said the 17 January elections were honorable and there were four rogues, four agitators—the CED—that were spoiling democracy here in Haiti. So there is a first version of events which is false and mistaken—as false, mistaken, and full of lies as the 17 January elections, which were a lie. So truth must be reestablished—the truth about the current situation in Haiti—out in the world, for national and international public opinion. The delegation has come to see exactly where, on what side, the enemies of democracy are to be found. [passage omitted]

Not only did the people abstain on the 17th, but again yesterday we saw that less than 1 percent of the population voted in the so-called CASEC's [Administrative Council for the Communal Sections] elections and run-offs. Now, that delegation's mission is to come and find out the truth here in the field. [passage omitted]

[Sylvio Claude] If I remember correctly, I think this is the first time in the history of Haiti that international authorities show an interest, each in its own area, in the problems of Haiti. Before, only the big guys were interested—the United States, France, Canada, Germany. Now we are seeing small countries almost like us, that have the same conditions as we. There is also a Chilean representative, and we know that Chile too is under a ferocious dictatorship. Well, they are interested in ours too.

When those who come to see what is going on here are people who are in the same type of situation as we, they can understand us better. [passage omitted] And that is why I feel it is an extraordinary gesture for Latin America and Central America. They did not come the same way Seaga did, to go and see the government. They came to meet people like themselves, who are suffering in the same way that they are; because they have had dictatorships in their country. Some of them, like Chile, still have them. So they know what a dictatorship means. They know what we are going through and what kind of pressure the big guys (?are bringing to bear) on us to make us accept what we do not want. [passage omitted]

Let me announce, also, that I had requested affiliation with the ODCA, [Christian Democratic Organizations of America], and that I have just written asking them to hold off on the affiliation. A Haitian Christian Democratic Party as democratic as ours is ashamed of (?the statement). I don't want to be affiliated with them anymore. [end recording]

The journalists also asked the CED leaders what they are planning to do in the days preceding and following next 7 February, on which date, according to the Constitution, a president is supposed to take power. Here is the answer given by Reverend Sylvio Claude.

[Begin recording] [Claude, in progress]...we are working. We have been working on an alternative since day before yesterday, and we want to arrive at something on 7 February—the annulment of the elections, and at the same time, arrive at a parallel government, put in a government which...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] When will you proclaim that government?

[Claude] That does not depend on us, because the people who ...[changes thought] in a meeting... [changes thought] I don't know. Maybe not everyone was there. They asked us (?to come up with) a solution like that. So we are waiting for them to decide and we too are in the process of deciding, so we will know what we are going to do. But in any case, something will happen on 7 February. Either a demonstration, or we just don't know yet. But something will happen because we are working toward this. [end recording]

Before leaving Haiti, the visiting delegation will hold a news conference—on Wednesday at the Villa Creole Hotel—to say what they are going to do, following their visit. Also, this delegation met with Mr Leslie Manigat yesterday afternoon.

Jamaica's Seaga Reiterates Support for Manigat
*FL030030 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 2 Feb 88*

[Text] We have a press communique here from the Jamaican consulate in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It says:

Professor Leslie Francois Manigat, a political scientist who is well-known in the Caribbean, Latin America, and Europe, was victorious in the recent 17 January presidential elections in Haiti. Professor Manigat was imprisoned under the Francois Duvalier government. He was imprisoned by Francois Duvalier himself, shortly after Duvalier came to power in 1957.

After his release, Professor Leslie Francois Manigat went into political exile. He taught political science in France at the Sorbonne, the University of Paris. He also pursued his teaching career at the University of the West Indies and, just recently, at Simon Bolivar University in Caracas, Venezuela.

The Jamaican Government hopes that under this president, Professor Leslie Francois, the democratic process which has begun in Haiti will be strengthened. In this connection, Jamaica is ready to give full support to the Haitian Government, provided the programs it says it is going to apply are really in keeping with the democratic process.

The Jamaican Government reiterates its desire to support all initiatives taken by the Haitian Government with a view to raising the standard of living of the Haitian people from an economic and social point of view and for the well-being of Haiti.

The note from Jamaica House, in Kingston, the capital of Jamaica, is signed by Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

Mirebalais Youth Protest Recent Arrests

*FL030017 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88*

[Report from Mirebalais correspondent (Mirabeau Louis)]

[Excerpts] We have received a press release from the young people in Mirebalais. The press release says: We young people in Mirebalais strongly protest the arrests by the Haitian Army in the lower central plateau. [passage omitted]

According to a last-minute report, the men arrested in Savanette were sent to Belladere. Belladere said it had not received any complaint against these men so they sent the men to Hinche. Thus, the men who were arrested in Savanette are now in Hinche. This same source reports there had been no arrest orders issued against these men, that it looks as if the initiative to arrest the men came from Savanette as if people in Savanette are just making their authority felt. [passage omitted]

Mirebalais CASEC Elections Results Reported

*FL022320 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 2 Feb 88*

[By (Johnny Decamp) from Mirebalais]

[Excerpt] There are four rural sections in the commune of Mirebalais. In each section there was only one coalition running in the CASEC [Administrative Council for the Communal Section] elections. Consequently, each of the coalitions has been elected with whatever number of votes they received.

The results of the elections are as follows:

(Crete Brulee) section: (Joel Louis) coalition—515 votes.

(Gastoy) section: (Jean Vie Gosie) coalition—1073 votes.

(Grand Boucan) section: (Wilfrid Kitea) coalition—1205 votes.

(Sarasin) section: (Albert Emile) coalition—1559 votes. As we said, all of these coalitions had no opponents. Consequently, they have all been elected for their section. [passage omitted]

Director General of Government Daily Resigns

*FL030040 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 2 Feb 88*

[Text] We have learned that the director general of the government daily newspaper HAITI LIBEREE, Professor (Wilhelm Romeus), submitted his resignation to Information Minister Gerard C. Noel yesterday.

The reason for Mr (Romeus's) departure is apparently a material one. It is connected with the economic problems HAITI LIBEREE faces. The paper's economic condition has apparently forced the director general to resign.

HAITI LIBEREE closed in July for 4 months because of economic problems and just recently resumed operations. The paper resumed publication just a few weeks ago, after receiving a big stock of material.

To fill the vacancy caused by Mr (Romeus)' resignation, interim Information Minister Gerard C. Noel has formed a provisional editorial committee charged with publishing the newspaper until further notice. The committee will reportedly be made up of Mr (Roger St Victor), a journalist and adviser on the information minister's staff; agronomist (Roger Jean-Baptiste), an adviser in the regional offices administration office at the Ministry of Information; and Mr (Ernst Ais), director of the regional office at the Ministry of Information. We just learned, however, at the last minute, that Mr (Ernst Ais) has called to inform us he is not on this committee that was just formed to administer the paper until further notice. Mr (Ais) says that neither he nor Mr (Roger Jean-Baptiste) are members of any HAITI LIBEREE committee.

Nicaragua

Government Submits New Proposals to Opposition

PA030439 Paris AFP in Spanish 0349 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Managua, 2 Feb (AFP)—Today the Nicaraguan Government proposed to the 14 opposition political parties the resumption of the national dialogue to discuss a 14-point agenda which contemplates certain reforms to the Constitution.

Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan parliament and the government representative to the political dialogue, announced the 14-point proposal and issued a call for national unity to rebuild the country.

The government proposal includes the discussion of the electoral branch, the independence of the judicial branch, and the creation of a prosecutor for human rights and a people's defender.

The government also proposed to the opposition the creation of a constitutional guarantees court, municipal and university autonomy, and dates for holding municipal elections and also to elect delegates to the Central American parliament.

In his statement, Nunez reiterated that "any new funding for the contras will have negative effects on the nation." He added that his government has demonstrated enough proof of its devotion to peace.

"With this new proposal, we are telling the opposition political parties that we want to continue this path of flexibility," he emphasized.

The national dialogue was interrupted in mid-December after 14 of the 16 opposition parties demanded constitutional reforms. Following that demand, the government requested more flexibility, thus disregarding the deadlines set by the Nicaraguan opposition.

Nunez recalled that the report the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS) of Esquipulas II authored "clearly established that the national dialogue in Nicaragua was suspended due to the withdrawal of the opposition parties."

Nunez added: However, despite the stands adopted "by some opposition parties, our government decided to resume the national dialogue."

After criticizing political groups that "let themselves be influenced by the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board"—a rightist, political organization—Nunez said that "we must decide once and for all whether we will resume the national dialogue or suspend it for good."

Envoy to U.S. on Congress' Contra Aid Vote

PA030300 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
0245 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington has said that the U.S. Congress will decide if the United States wants peace or war in Central America. Here we have a report from Washington:

Carlos Tunnerman, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States, has stated in Washington tonight that hopes for peace in Central America now rest in the hands of the U.S. Congress. This was the first reaction from the Managua Government to the speech by President Ronald Reagan. The U.S. Congress will decide if the United States wants peace or war in Central America, he stated, adding: The international community supports the peace efforts of the Central American presidents. President Reagan is alone in the opposition. The polls also show that the American people are opposed, by an overwhelming majority, to contra for the aids, he added.

Tunnerman stated: We hope Congress will not go against that sentiment and that, in line with the same democratic nature, it will present peace with an opportunity, particularly now that we are closer than ever to attaining that peace.

Cardinal: Aid Possible 'Obstacle' to Democracy

PA022051 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Turin, Italy—Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has stated in Turin that U.S. aid to the contras could be an obstacle in the path of Nicaraguan democratization. Obando y Bravo is in Turin to participate in ceremonies marking the 100th anniversary of the death of St John Bosco, the founder of the Salesian order.

The Nicaraguan cardinal noted that his country is experiencing a complex situation characterized by a confrontation of irreconcilable systems of government. The Sandinist government of President Daniel Ortega, he commented, wants to put down its weapons and accept amnesty [as heard], but the Nicaraguan Resistance wants democratization—a Western-style democracy. Mediation is difficult, he stated, but as a man of faith, I cannot believe that the paths of the heart are impossible.

The cardinal added that the church is opposed to all forms of totalitarianism, whether rightist or leftist.

Government, Yatama Announce Cease-Fire

PA030408 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
0310 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government and Yatama [Organization of Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians and Creole Groups] today signed a cease-fire agreement. The cease-fire will be implemented on 1 March, and it will last 45 days, which can be extended. The Indians will

give up the armed struggle in return for cultural and ethnic rights. The government, meanwhile, will guarantee their rights, and this will be safeguarded by other governments and international organizations.

Ortega Concludes European Visit, Returns 2 Feb

PA022013 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
1810 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra returned to Managua this morning after concluding a working visit to Spain, Italy, Sweden, and Norway.

During his visits and meetings with the leaders of these countries, as well as with Pope John Paul II, the Nicaraguan president made clear the willingness of the revolutionary government to contribute to the Central American peace process.

The Spanish news agency, in analyzing Ortega's tour, described it as a political success, particularly while the U.S. President is bent on obtaining more aid for the Somozist counterrevolutionaries.

Court Issues Communique on James Denby Release

PA021306 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Communique issued by Second District Criminal Court of Managua on 1 February]

[Text] The Second District Criminal Court of Managua wishes to inform the general public about the legal procedures on which Nicaragua based its decision to provisionally release U.S. citizen James Jordan Denby.

1. Using the rights granted by the penal code and by Article 5 of Decree 896, the Procedural Law for Crimes Against Public Order and Public Security, the Office of the Attorney General requested the release of James Jordan Denby on 29 January 1988.

2. The court accepted the request and provisionally released Denby on 29 January, based on the powers granted by the aforementioned law.

3. Denby was provisionally released after his bail was paid by the director of the Los Angeles, California Human Rights Project. The release was effective at 1100 on 30 January 1988.

4. Denby's sentence will be handed down in the coming hours.

Managua, 1 February 1988

Rosa Argentina Morales, Second District criminal judge

Further on Chamorro Acceptance of Amnesty

PA311415 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro, former leader of the contra group UDN-FARN [Nicaraguan Democratic Union-Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua], returned to Nicaragua last night to accept the amnesty established by the Esquipulas II agreement. At the airport, Chamorro told newsmen he decided to withdraw from the armed struggle to join the civic and democratic struggle.

"I have accepted the amnesty because efforts must be made to end the bloodshed and the war," Chamorro said. However, he also spoke in favor of President Reagan's aiding the contras. This is because, in his opinion, it is necessary; otherwise a dignified peace plan would be self-defeating. [sentence as heard]. Chamorro also made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Chamorro] I have returned to the country to make my contribution to achieving peace among all Nicaraguan brothers. It is my current intention to cooperate with the Democratic Coordinating Board to achieve the full consolidation of democracy and peace, as I said before, among the Nicaraguan people.

[Unidentified reporter] Which party are you currently affiliated with?

[Chamorro] As I stated, I intend to contribute to a sense of unity within the opposition in general. I may decide—because of my beliefs, because of the party's credibility, and because of historical precedents—to join the conservative party.

[Reporter] Why did you decide to return to Nicaragua?

[Chamorro] I returned because I believe all Nicaraguans must make an effort to consolidate peace among brothers. I have accepted the amnesty because I truly believe peace must be consolidated among all Nicaraguans. We must end the bloodshed and the hatred that war creates. My intentions are profoundly democratic and nationalistic.

[Reporter] Are there other Nicaraguans who will accept amnesty as you did?

[Chamorro] I cannot say. This was a very personal decision. Just as 7 years ago I left alone to take up a revolutionary rifle, and today I return alone to take up peace and democracy. I sincerely believe the only thing that can consolidate harmony among Nicaraguans is a process of pacification and democracy.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the Esquipulas agreement and of the latest progress the Nicaraguan Government has made by lifting the state of emergency?

[Chamorro] I believe these are very productive measures that will gradually lead to consolidation. They are an opening that will lead us to the path on which we will all be able to enjoy the tranquillity of a democracy, with peace for all Nicaraguans.

[Reporter] How long will you be in Nicaragua, or do you plan to remain here permanently?

[Chamorro] I am here permanently. This trip is not to create excitement or anything like that, but to remain here and struggle alongside the Nicaraguan people in a civil struggle.

[Reporter] From the opposition?

[Chamorro] Definitely from the opposition, of course.

[Reporter] How long do you plan to stay here?

[Chamorro] I plan to remain here, to be another citizen of the country. [end recording]

Publication of 'Liberal' Magazine Noted
PA292343 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish
1200 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] PASO A PASO, a general interest, liberal magazine, is being published. This week it carries a study of the new national budget. Salvador Gaitan reports on the upcoming election for a new Independent Liberal Party directorate, and Eligio Somarriba focuses on human rights in Nicaragua.

Panama

Further on Continuing Arrests, Protests

Crusade Organizes 2d Rally
PA021600 Panama City LA PRENSA
in Spanish 31 Jan 88 p 1A

[Article by Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] A second rally was organized yesterday by the National Civic Crusade [CCN] at Los Libertadores to mark the return of six exiled members, and its leaders again predicted the ouster of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, current Defense Forces commander.

The rally for justice, democracy, and freedom began at 1700, 30 minutes behind schedule, and was attended by Aurelio Barria, who was reelected president of the Chamber of Commerce; Gilbert Mallol; and journalist Bosco Vallarino.

Aurelio Barria addressed the people living in this sector and said that Gen Noriega's ouster "is near," adding that his statement is based on Steven M. Kalish's declarations during a U.S. congressional hearing—where he accused the Panamanian officer of participating in drug and

weapons trafficking. Barria said: No more bird shot and illegal arrests. He urged the Panamanian people to remain alert, "because we cannot be governed by fugitives," clearly referring to Noriega.

Bosco Vallarino urged Panamanians to join the struggle for freedom, adding that the CCN does not oppose the Armed Forces, only its military commanders—meaning Noriega and his cronies.

A spokesperson of the Los Libertadores residents said they had been threatened early that morning by S-2 [Panama Defense Forces, FDP, branch in charge of contraband control] and G-2 [FDP Intelligence branch] members, who began to intimidate the people by saying that they knew the names of all those who lived in the building, and added that whoever participated in the rally would suffer the consequences.

CCN leader Manuel Burgos issued an appeal to the Panamanian people urging them to join the efforts and struggle against the current regime. Likewise, Authentic Panamenist Party leader Hernan Garcia listed in chronological order all the murders that have been perpetrated in Panama.

The people beat pans, blew whistles, waved white handkerchiefs, and threw shredded paper from the top of buildings during the rally.

Summoning of Leaders Protested

PA022257 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
1 Feb 88 p 2

[Paid advertisement by the CCN; date and place not given]

[Text] Justice [subhead]

Once again, government officials who support this corrupt and repressive regime are trying to intimidate CCN leaders by summoning them to a prosecutor's office. These leaders were ordered to give a deposition based on absurd charges. Meanwhile here in Panama and all over the world, Noriega and his clique are accused of and proven guilty of perpetrating the most horrendous crimes; including murder, corruption, drug trafficking, money laundering, and gun running.

This contradiction provides ample proof of the kind of justice the military regime is promoting.

It must be understood once and for all that they will not intimidate us. They will only make us stronger in our struggle for justice for all our people. Actions [subhead]

Monday, 1 February. At 1030, accompany your CCN leaders to the Attorney General's Office.

Get ready for:

1. The big white rally.
2. Save your money and store food in you cupboard. We have to get ready for the **GENERAL STRIKE** [preceding two words published in boldface and uppercase].
3. Intesify the pressure tactics that have been effective in cornering the enemy. The dictatorship is on its death bed. Exert more pressure than ever before using civil disobedience so they will have no reason to repress you.

Crusade Calls for Strike

PA021709 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
2 Feb 88 p 18-B

[Communique issued by the CCN in Panama City on 1 February]

[Text] Considering:

1. That in a 30 January communique to all military personnel and the Panamanian people, the National Civic Crusade made a patriotic call alerting the Panamanian people that the country's current situation is shameful and unbearable;
2. That on this day, the unlawful persecution of CCN members has resumed with the arrests of Alberto Boyd, Jr., president of the National Council of Private Enterprise, and Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra, former president of the National Council of Private Enterprise, of the Insurance Companies and Insurance Underwriters Associations, and of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives; and
3. That while the dictatorship uses judicial terrorism as a means for political persecution, the country's judicial authorities have done nothing against General Manuel Antonio Noriega and other officers accused of involvement in drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and other crimes, thus proving that these authorities are subject to the military High Command's private interests and that the accused officers have been granted personal immunity that places them above the normal Panamanian citizen;

The CCN resolves:

1. To condemn and protest the arbitrary, illegal arrests of Alberto Boyd, Jr. and Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra, as well as the persecution once again unleashed by Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega and his accomplices against the National Civic Crusade.
2. To demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alberto Boyd, Jr. and Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra.
3. To repudiate this type of action that only aims to divert the Panamanian people's attention from the imminent indictment against Gen Noriega and other Defense Forces officers.

4. To call on all the CCN member organizations and on all the Panamanian people to organize a national strike that will include a complete halt of all activities as a means to reject the regime imposed on us, to achieve total democracy, and to end, once and for all, the serious economic, political, social, and moral crisis our nation is experiencing.

Issued in Panama City on 1 February 1988
National Civic Crusade

Chamber Backs Strike Call

PA021516 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish
2 Feb 88 p 3

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture on 1 February in Panama City]

[Text] The latest actions carried out by officials of the Attorney General's Office, who summoned to their offices and later arbitrarily arrested several outstanding representatives of the private sector—as in the case of Alberto Boyd, Jr., president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP)—only proves that far from promoting the desired search for national harmony, the government continues to be bent on using intimidation as a means to silence the popular voices demanding profound changes.

Those who believe that these illegal and arbitrary court procedures will be enough to restrain the irrevocable desire of the people who wish to live in peace, freedom, justice, and democracy are mistaken.

Ordering the illegal arrest of citizens for the sole "crime" of openly and publicly differing with the regime once again has made the Panamanian family a victim of abuse and of actions that violate the human and individual rights established in the Constitution.

We reiterate our protests and demand the immediate release of all those arrested and the abolishment of the arbitrary arrest warrants issued against distinguished Panamanian citizens.

We call on private enterprise to agree to and prepare for a national strike if CONEP President Alberto Boyd, Jr. is not released; if steps toward an immediate democratization are not undertaken; if the laws continue to be violated; and if national harmony is not achieved.

Issued in Panama City on 1 February 1988.
Board of Directors,
Aurelio Barria, Jr., President.

CONEP on Leaders' Arrest

PA021546 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish
2 Feb 88 p 21

[Communique issued by CONEP on in Panama City on 1 February]

[Text] In view of the illegal and unjust arrest of our president, Alberto Boyd, Jr, to give testimony at the Eighth District court; and

In view of the outrageous manner in which he was handcuffed and taken to prison like a vile criminal, and because this is clear evidence that there has been a resurgence of government persecution against honest businessmen who demand an immediate solution to our fatherland's political and economic crisis, [the CONEP recommends]:

1. The immediate reorganization of government institutions so the country can take the path of a true democracy.
2. An immediate investigation by an independent, impartial commission of the recent crimes that have been confirmed or reported.
3. The immediate removal from public office of those involved in the crimes that warrant investigation by the independent commission.
4. The subordination of the Panama Defense Forces to civilian rule and to Constitution so it will be a professional, apolitical institution whose members are protected by the rules of the military career system.
5. The immediate reorganization of the legislative and judicial branches, as well as of the Electoral Tribunal.
6. The full reestablishment of citizens' rights and basic guarantees set forth in the Constitution.

The CONEP resolves:

1. To condemn this new lack of respect for human rights and for the country's laws.
2. To denounce before the country and the entire free world the repressive measures that aim to hide the regime's moral and institutional weakness.
3. To call on all businessmen to cooperate in preparing for a nationwide strike unless CONEP President Alberto Boyd, Jr is released and unless actions begin for the country's immediate democratization and for a return to respect for laws and to national harmony.

Issued in Panama City on 1 February 1988
CONEP

Crusade Leaders Released

PA030047 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 0012 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] This is a last-minute report: After having been under arrest for 24 hours at the Modelo Jail, Alberto Boyd and Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra were released today at 1845. A large crowd of relatives and friends awaited the release of the two businessmen who are also CCN leaders.

[Begin recording] [Boyd] The outrages committed against us by the Eighth District Court will not put a halt to the wishes for justice, liberty, and democracy in our country. [applause] I have no complaints about the Modelo Jail.

[Reporter] What is CONEP going to do now?

[Boyd] I will meet with CONEP as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Mr Gonzalez de la Lastra: Why did the district court order your arrest?

[Gonzalez de la Lastra] Because of several unimportant documents, such as newspaper clippings; nothing that could really justify charges, much less an arrest. [end recording]

Press Photographer Arrested

PA030507 Paris AFP in Spanish 0440 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 2 Feb (AFP)—Alcides Rodriguez, a photographer for the opposition paper LA PRENSA and an AFP contributor, was arrested in Panama City today while covering the release from jail of two Panamanian businessmen, who are members of the opposition CCN executive committee.

A night court judge sentenced Rodriguez to spend 365 days in jail or pay a \$365-dollar fine because he did not have authorization to take pictures at the jail. [passage omitted]

CCN spokesmen unofficially stated that the 22 members of the Crusade executive committee will be summoned and that more detentions are possible.

In view of that possibility, the opposition leaders threatened to call a strike and hold an opposition rally at an undetermined date.

Daily Interviews Gen Paredes on Situation
PA302312 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
27 Jan 88 p 2A

[Report on interview with General Ruben Dario Paredes, former commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, by Migdalia Fuentes de Pineda in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, the former commander of Panama's National Guard believes the "hasty" dismissal of Jose I. Blandon, whose statements have shocked the Defense Forces, was a mistake.

According to Paredes, Delvalle, and not Noriega ordered Blandon's removal. Paredes said "in a move to expand his political scope [espacio politico]," Delvalle took advantage of the confusion, dismissed Blandon to please Noriega, and filled the post with a member of his own party (the Republican Party).

During our interview with Gen Paredes, we asked him about his role as FDP commander with the corruption in the military, which has stunned the Panamanian public.

Paredes categorically rejected any insinuation that as FDP commander he was aware of the actions carried out by his subordinates. He said: "I was never involved in any illegal activities, because I was totally opposed to them."

Paredes, 54, who retired after 27 years of continuous service in the military, feels that if Noriega leaves, Colonel Marcos Justines should be the new commander.

"If Noriega leaves—no matter how that happens—I believe at this time of crisis it would be wise for Col Justines—although he has already served for 30 years—to assume command of the FDP during a transition period while the plans for a Great National Accord are implemented.

Should President Delvalle not join the transition agreement (and instead decides to go to the Jockey Club) Paredes proposes the creation of a junta made up of prominent Panamanians, with representatives from the Civic Crusade, the government and opposition political parties, the church, and the Human Rights Commission.

Following elections for a new president, the General Staff would present the names of the new staff members, based on seniority.

Paredes believes Justines should retire together with the other officers who are due to retire. In this manner, all the members of the military's top echelon will retire.

Paredes described Justines as a man with more virtues than defects. According to Paredes, Justines would not be eager to become another Noriega or one of those officers "who cannot live without the pleasures of power."

Paredes said since his retirement from the Defense Forces on 11 August 1983 he has not been in contact with the military commanders, including Diaz Herrera and Noriega. However, Paredes referred to a brief conversation with Col Justines in which, according to Paredes, he told Justines that the military should find an organized solution for the crisis in order to prevent a stampede, chaos and confrontations. Paredes also recommended reopening the media, but 3 months later nothing had been done, he said. In justifying this, Gen Paredes used a purely military argument: "Col Justines is a good man, however, he must follow orders."

Paredes stressed that the Defense Forces should return to the activities stipulated in the Constitution, putting an end to "the deterioration we have fallen into, because I am part of the institution," he said.

He criticized the police system, which has become weak during the past 6 months, when vigilance has slackened. Proof of this, he said, are armed holdups of buses and deficient police protection in neighborhoods, which according to him is now the responsibility of private companies whose employees he described as "quasi-policemen," recalling that the one who confessed to shooting at Magistrate [Camilo] Perez had not been properly trained. He also referred to the murder of Dr Arroyo, who was killed while defending a lady whose car was being stolen.

Paredes estimated that the Defense Forces currently has 30,000 men, and that there is no control over its expansion.

"The Comptroller's Office has no control over that," said Paredes, adding that the reason for this is that the Defense Forces wants to increase its electoral support.

Paredes said Noriega would set an example if the Defense Forces abstained from voting (based on its own regulations) in future elections, because "when emotions get out of control, the Defense Forces should remain cool-headed, for the sake of the homeland."

Paredes ruled out the possibility of a military putsch. He added he hopes this will not occur, as those actions always result in bloodshed.

Paredes urged Noriega—the son of Lavignia and respectable Tomas de Porras Avenue—to change the mistaken course all Panamanians are on, before it is too late.

"Delvalle should look at his father's grave, and as a man he should do his part by telling Noriega that the current situation should be corrected," Paredes stressed adding that PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] and PALA [Labor Party] leaders should do likewise, for everyone's sake.

Paredes said he agrees with the creation of a Defense Ministry. However, he believes that position should not be occupied by an active or retired Defense Forces member.

Concerning what has been called the policy of "let's forget about it," Paredes said this is a mess because there are some differing opinions among the various sectors. Nevertheless, he believes that after some serious actions have been agreed upon, and after a transition period—1 year prior to his leaving office—Noriega should retire and remain in Panama if he wishes to do so.

Paredes said: Then after the judicial branch has recovered its prestige, Noriega, if necessary, should be summoned to answer the charges against him and against those who have been charged as his accomplices in criminal actions; such as the murder of Spadafora and drug trafficking. If Noriega manages to escape, there is extradition, which can be used to bring him back to the country to answer the charges against him.

People would be happy if the U.S. Government helped Noriega and gave him the same treatment it gave Ferdinand Marcos in Hawaii.

"Panamanian people would be happy because our people are not bloodthirsty or resentful," Paredes said.

Paredes added: We need to help our country by putting an end to all the vices, which seem to be in their final stage. I believe the policy of "let's forget about it," goes against moral principles. Nevertheless, the country would benefit if we end this situation once and for all and thus end this current "struggle."

With regards to the economy, Paredes criticizes the fact that a group of Panamanians have been asking for money everywhere, but everybody is closing their doors to them, which is harming the country's prestige.

Although he said he has no resentment toward the military men who withdrew their support for him in 1983, he seems to be following the statement that says: "When you have an enemy do not worry, just sit outside your front door so you can see his body go by."

Paredes added: "To me, Diaz Herrera was an efficient and very hard working subordinate, perhaps better than Noriega. However, when I analyze the crisis that occurred in mid-1987, I understand that Diaz Herrera's problem exceeds the limits of personal ambitions, which generated the struggle for the FDP leadership between him and Noriega. The two of them violently ended their relationship, which is affecting two million people, especially the FDP, and this resulted in a struggle for power by individuals."

Paredes said: I am not, and I was not in that "circle." [preceding word in English] Therefore, we—Noriega, Diaz Herrera, and I—speak three different languages. I

want us Panamanians to peacefully coexist, and I have been saying this for the past 5 years. We [the FDP] did not fulfill our duty of democratizing the country because Diaz Herrera and Noriega did not want to, yet I feel no resentment toward them.

Paredes reaffirms this statement by saying that pictures of Noriega and Diaz Herrera can be seen hanging in his house, which remind him of the various activities they carried out together in the military.

"They [Noriega and Diaz Herrera] were not able to democratize the country, and the situation is worse today than in 1968. Moreover, I believe time has put each of us where we belong. Diaz Herrera, with all the wealth he admits he has, is living in exile; Noriega is a prisoner of power; and I am living in freedom in my country," Paredes said.

Paredes believes Dr Arnulfo Arias should not be a candidate in the elections. However, he should support the slate for the reconstruction of the Panamanian democracy that should be composed, according to his own statements, by young people, new faces, "with no political scars."

Paredes appealed to the PRD, the PALA, and other progovernment parties to get rid of their false leaders.

Even though Gen Paredes rejects the reports that the FDP is composed of gangsters and evildoers, he believes the fire at El Machetazo store was an action to intimidate, sabotage, and warn all the serious businessmen who participated in the 48-hour strike on 27 July. Paredes added: I am not the first one to state this. The Catholic Church was the first to point out in November that it was necessary to clarify what happened. The church ended up volunteering to serve as mediator to find a solution that would benefit the entire country.

Paredes continued: I also suspect this was an action to intimidate the business sector, which supplies needed goods to all citizens.

Paredes said: I remember a conversation I had with three members of the government and the PRD, during a casual gathering at a local restaurant, they discussed businessmen like the Gagos, Pools, Tzanetatos, Psychoyos, and families who had become millionaires with this government, adding they would not allow those businessmen join an opposition movement. If the business sector decided to join the opposition, they would see what would happen to them. At the time, I thought they were bragging, but when the fire occurred at El Machetazo...then I remembered the bragging. Therefore, I have shared the opinion of, or rather asked the big question the Catholic Church has asked: This fire did not seem to be an accident, it seemed to be on purpose. The same as with the destruction of the Roosevelt statue. No one seems to know where all that bronze is. It is

also the same as the attack on the Mansion Dante store. We all know the attack on the U.S. Embassy was directed by false PRD leaders, who have lead the country to today's serious situation.

Nevertheless, the 20,000 FDP members cannot be like their chiefs. So, why are they not doing anything? Because they are human beings, who have certain needs. The current FDP system has brought the expected results to Noriega. That is, repressing people with fear. It is a system very similar to the one used by totalitarian regimes where everyone takes care of everyone. This brings some security to the person directing the system. I can anticipate that this situation cannot last very long and I believe that Noriega's departure—and I hope this will be done in an orderly manner—through an agreement is very near. I believe when Noriega is called before the Florida Grand Jury to testify he will no longer have the moral authority to continue as the commander in chief of all Panamanians. I believe responsible officers will convince Commander Noriega that it is necessary for him to retire from the military, as established by Law 20.

PAPO President on Democratic Struggle

PA010144[Editorial Report] Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish at 1711 GMT on 27 January broadcasts an approximately 40-minute recorded statement by Popular Action Party [PAPO] president Dr Carlos Ivan Zuniga. Dr Zuniga begins by stating: "It is a great pleasure to be able to use Radio Mundial's microphones to address you once again. I am very proud to be back in your homes." Zuniga continues to express his great pleasure for being back on the air, "thanks to the pressure exerted by the people." He continues to say that Radio Mundial is on the air to serve the people and "it is a station at the service of democracy and freedom, at the service of the historic times the nation is experiencing, at the service of the new society that was born in June 1987."

At 1721 GMT, Dr Zuniga begins to speak about the country's current situation, stating that "we want a Panamanian-style solution; we do not want a solution that in one way or another will represent dependency on U.S. power. We do not want intervention. The only intervention we want is for the United States to stop helping the Panamanian military men." Zuniga continues to say that PAPO "supports the primary goals of the Civic Crusade. PAPO feels the struggle for democratization that paved the way for the formation of the Civic Crusade and its primary goals cannot be changed from one day to another or replaced for other goals that are not the fruit born from a deep consensus among all the sectors." He continues: "We will continue to support, until the very end, the efforts for unity being made by the Civic Crusade, because we want important institutional changes."

At 1730 GMT, Zuniga states that the national security doctrine is the most serious problem confronted by Panama and all the Latin American countries. "This national security doctrine, created by the United States,

has consolidated the military empires in Latin America. It has built the totalitarian, militaristic, and dictatorial systems in Latin American." Zuniga adds that this doctrine is present in Panama, and "as long as this doctrine prevails in Panama, the names of the commanders will change, but they will always be commanders supporting the same doctrine." The PAPO president continues: "We want institutional changes. Therefore, when certain political sectors suggest changes that do not represent institutional changes, but removal of officials, we tell them: We want those officials removed, but we also want institutional changes."

Zuniga adds: "We want a national solution; we want things to be as clear as water. Regarding Blandon's statement in the United States that he discussed his plan with the opposition political parties: On behalf of PAPO, I say he is lying. PAPO has never discussed this plan with anyone in Panama or in the United States." Zuniga adds: "PAPO identifies fully with the primary goals of the Civic Crusade. Second, we demand greater participation in the Civic Crusade's decisionmaking. Third, we find the Civic Crusade leadership's position to be flexible and positive." He continues to say that the Civic Crusade's position in face of the Blandon plan "is in accord with the will of our people." Zuniga adds that it is the people in the streets who can exert the pressure; "unfortunately, the Panamanian Army keeps the people off the street, which prevents the people from exerting pressure and achieving a popular solution to the problem."

Regarding the 1989 elections, Zuniga says, "No one can speak of 1989 as a electoral alternative; no one must distract the people's attention from the main objective, which is democracy." Zuniga continues to stress the main objectives of the Civic Crusade, describing them as essential. To think of elections alone would be betraying the will and aspirations of the people. Zuniga states that the Electoral Tribunal is controlled by the military government; therefore, it is impossible to think of elections at this moment.

Zuniga continues to say that "the only alternative is for you [the Panamanian people] to continue struggling for the right to build your future." Zuniga adds that "popular mobilization is the only solution to achieve popular alternatives." The PAPO leader describes popular mobilization as the presence of the people in the solution of their own problems; the people's presence in the drafting of the solutions that resolve the crisis.

The PAPO president concludes his 40-minute statement by calling on the people to "refrain from taking the path of violence; always refrain from taking the path of violence. The success of your struggle lies in the peaceful nature of your struggle."

Need for 'United Front' With FDP Viewed
PA030305 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish
1 Feb 88 p 6

["Starting Point" column by Griselda Lopez: "A United Front To Develop"]

[Text] The creation of a united front with the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], proposed by top labor leaders who met in Chitre, is urgently needed. The labor leaders stated that after it is created, this front must be organized and strengthened until it becomes a firm reality. A united front formed to develop the country and deal with backwardness, division, revenge, ill-will, neo-oligarchy, and neofascism must unite peasants, workers, the military, and intellectuals who share the same progressive awareness of those clear objectives. These men must be really aware of people's needs, which are the real problems some people are trying to evade. We hope our words do not go with the wind, and we hope the Chitre proposal becomes a reality. We know it will be pleasantly received.

Now that some anti-Panamanian sectors are happy to see the U.S. interest in "penalizing" our country, a number of leaders have forgotten our own country, the Panamanian people's needs, the unemployment situation, the housing problem, and the need to increase national

production. Tied by an umbilical cord to the north, they have turned their backs on the true Panamanian citizens, thus delaying solutions and turning Panama into a new U.S. colony. They forget that throughout their history, most Panamanians have struggled to get rid of colonialism and that the struggle is irreversible.

We must take heed of the statements by Jorge Ritter, Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations, concerning what he called "the anti-Noriega paranoia of some U.S. Government officials." Ritter said if the United States does not achieve an agreement with Panama "in 1990, it has to start dismantling its military bases. With Noriega that agreement is impossible to achieve. However, the United States is making a mistake by thinking that eliminating Noriega will mean the elimination of the national struggle he represents." The national struggle needs the united front proposed by the honorable labor leaders today more than ever.

Argentina

Alfonsin Arrives Home From Spain Visit

PY030112 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color
Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Boeing 707 aircraft that brought President Raul Alfonsin and his entourage back to the country landed in Buenos Aires at 2045 [2345 GMT].

Central Bank President Departs for New York

PY011800 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1441 GMT
1 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Feb (TELAM)—Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea this morning flew to the United States to continue the Argentine negotiations concerning the foreign debt with representatives of the financial organizations.

Machinea was accompanied by Central Bank Director Daniel Marx. He departed from Ezeiza International Airport aboard a Pan Am flight to Miami, where he was scheduled to take a plane to New York.

Machinea was first scheduled to travel via Eastern airlines at 2315 yesterday but the flight was canceled.

Rebel Officer at Large: Charged With Contempt

PY021826 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1450 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (NA)—Military sources have reported that the Defense Ministry may soon discharge Lieutenant Colonel Arturo Gonzalez Naya from the Armed Forces because he was declared in contempt of court by the military court.

Lieutenant Colonel Conrado Strommer, the 32d military trial judge, who is in charge of the legal proceedings against Gonzalez Naya charged Naya with contempt because Naya did not appear before the court within the established legal timeframe.

Gonzalez Naya is the only senior officer involved in the January military uprising, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, still at large. All the others have already appeared before the court. [passage omitted]

Army Issues Communique on Imprisoned Rebels

PY021857 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1455 GMT
2 Feb 88

[Text] According to a communique released today by the Army General Staff, 38 noncommissioned officers involved in the case related to the military uprising headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico who were being held at the Magdalena military prison will be transferred to their respective units. This does not preclude the continuation of trial proceedings against them.

The communique, which is signed by Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola, institutional affairs director of the Army General Staff, also describes the situation of the officers and noncommissioned officers still held in the Magdalena military prison. The text of the communique follows:

(1) Military Judge Colonel Mario E. Serra, retired, yesterday afternoon ordered the release of the following military personnel held at the Magdalena military prison: 34 noncommissioned officers of the 4th Infantry Brigade and 4 noncommissioned officers of the 5th Infantry Brigade. This decision will not affect future legal proceedings.

(2) These noncommissioned officers will be transferred to their respective units on 2 February.

(3) The following military personnel will remain at the Magdalena military prison after the transfer: 11 senior officers, 41 junior officers, and 72 noncommissioned officers.